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**Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$2.7 Million to
Combat Violence Against Women**

*Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence announced 2018
Action Plan*

QUINCY – Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett announced that 37 grants totaling \$2.7 million have been awarded to community-based organizations, police departments, and state agencies to develop and strengthen law enforcement response, prosecution strategies, and victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. These grants were made possible through the Violence Against Women Act's (VAWA) Services Training Officers Prosecutors (VAWA STOP) Grant Program. The VAWA STOP Program is administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research. The administration also announced the 2018 Action Plan for the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

"Support through the VAWA STOP Program allows our partner organizations to implement innovative approaches to address the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking across the Commonwealth," **said Governor Baker**. "This funding is critical in strengthening the essential role that law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services professionals play in cases of violent crimes against women and in making Massachusetts a safer state for all."

"The VAWA STOP Program is an essential component to our comprehensive strategies

to ensure the safety of victims and to hold offenders accountable for their crimes,” **said Lieutenant Governor Polito, Chair of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.** “We are also pleased to announce the 2018 Action Plan for the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and look forward to working with council members to deliver several helpful work products over the next year.”

“We are pleased to provide these awards to organizations that have demonstrated expertise in their respective program areas across Massachusetts,” **said Secretary Bennett.** “We look forward to continuing our strong partnerships with these recipients in order to advance the critical missions that these organizations fulfill.”

“We deeply appreciate the support of the Commonwealth through its administration of the VAWA STOP grant to support some of our staff time assisting survivors who come in contact with the police,” **said Sue Chandler, Executive Director of DOVE.** “Our VAWA STOP grant allows DOVE staff to reach out to those survivors and alert them to services available from DOVE. They may otherwise not know we exist. For these survivors, this outreach can be a lifeline.”

In April 2015, Governor Baker signed Executive Order 563, re-launching the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. Last fall, the Council [announced the launch of work groups](#) in five priority areas identified by the Council and the administration: Response and Assessment, Housing Stability and Self Sufficiency, Human Trafficking: Children, Prevention Education Early Ed through Campus and Veteran/Military Families. The Council and the administration today announced the 2018 Action Plan for each work group, detailing year-end deliverables.

The 2018 Action Plan includes:

Response and Assessment:

- To provide final recommendations of the [Law Enforcement DV Toolkit pilot](#) program in a report to the Council;
- To provide completed guidelines and standard operating practices for domestic violence high risk teams including law enforcement, District Attorneys and intimate partner abuse organizations to the Council;

Housing Stability and Self Sufficiency:

- To review the implementation of the 2013 Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization and provide a written report including gaps and recommendations for training, collaboration and system and policy changes;
- To work in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development to increase collaboration between the Council and shelters,

housing systems and subsidized housing models to expand housing options and promote existing best practice solutions by re-releasing Violence Against Women guidance to local housing authorities;

Human Trafficking: Children:

- To research best practice child trafficking policies and programs across the United States and complete a report to inform policy and development of services for high risk and trafficked youth in Massachusetts in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families;
- To explore opportunities to expand policy for child sexual exploitation cases and provide the Department of Youth Services with a written report on strategy;
- To provide a report to the Administration identifying ways to develop enhanced training for child advocacy centers, district attorneys, state agencies and law enforcement in the identification, response and support for child sexual exploitation cases;
- To provide protocols in handling child trafficking cases for collaboration between High Risk Units and State Police Specialty Units under the 5th division to multi-jurisdiction and local law enforcement partners;

Prevention and Education:

- To work with the Executive Office of Education (EOE) to create a sexual and intimate partner violence prevention and awareness “Skills Chart” across educational sectors and develop a plan for adoption and implementation;

Veteran/Military Families:

- To have a military representative in attendance at annual trainings and meetings for civilian intimate partner abuse education programs and have a 100 percent attendance rate;
- To collaborate with the Office for Victims of Crime federal agency to provide technical assistance in creating best practice recommendations for standards of practice in delivering military-civilian sexual assault and domestic violence training;

The Violence Against Women Act was passed by Congress in 1994 and marked a turning point in the federal recognition of the extent and seriousness of violence against women, and solidified a commitment by the government to address the problem by providing federal resources for the issue. Over the last four years, nearly \$10 million in VAWA funds have been granted statewide to support domestic and sexual abuse victims and their families.

Funding Category	Grantee	Recommended Award
	Administrative Office of the Trial Court	\$135,000.00
Courts	Category Total	\$135,000.00
Discretionary	Adams PD	\$23,000.00
	Asian Task Force	\$75,000.00
	Bedford Police Department	\$30,000.00
	Behavioral Health	\$37,500.00
	DOVE, Inc.	\$68,500.00
	Jewish Family & Children's Services	\$30,000.00
	Martha's Vineyard Community Services	\$25,000.00
	Northeast Legal Aid, Inc.	\$42,000.00
	Our Deaf Survivors Center	\$40,000.00
	The Network/La Red	\$40,000.00
	Category Total	\$411,000.00
Law Enforcement	Assumption College PD	\$28,000.00
	Boston PD	\$115,000.00
	Cambridge PD	\$40,000.00
	Fitchburg PD	\$55,000.00
	Hampden County Sheriff	\$40,000.00
	MA Department of Corrections	\$80,000.00
	MA Department of Public Health	\$110,000.00
	Mashpee PD	\$47,500.00
	Pittsfield PD	\$49,500.00
	Worcester PD	\$55,000.00
	Yarmouth PD	\$55,000.00
	Category Total	\$675,000.00
Prosecution	Bristol County DA	\$100,000.00
	MA District Attorney's Association	\$117,000.00
	Norfolk County DA	\$217,000.00
	Northwestern DA	\$121,000.00
	Worcester County DA	\$120,000.00
	Category Total	\$675,000.00
Victim Services	Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	\$42,500.00

	Boston Medical Center Domestic Violence Program	\$112,000.00
	Community Legal Services and Counseling Center	\$61,000.00
	Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.	\$60,000.00
	Independence House, Inc.	\$115,000.00
	Pathways for Change, Inc.	\$120,000.00
	RESPOND, Inc.	\$42,000.00
	RIA House, Inc.	\$80,000.00
	Safe Passage, Inc.	\$130,000.00
	Womanshelter/Compañeras	\$42,500.00
	Category Total	\$805,000.00
All Categories	Total Amount to be Awarded	\$2,701,000.00

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